

E-INSTITUTE is an initiative of the Institute of Plumbing Australia with the aim to provide a vehicle for all members to participate in the workings of the Institute from the comfort of their desk.

E-INSTITUTE is written in Plain Text so as not to clutter your mailbox with large files written in fancy formats. We will keep each issue reasonably short and restrict it to only one or perhaps two matters requiring input by members. We hope that you will reciprocate by considering the issues raised and providing your comments and/or suggestions so as to allow your Institute to publish a consensus view.

TRAINING:

Your secretary was recently asked to present the Institute's views to a trainers seminar hosted by TAFE in Perth Western Australia. In the presentation Stephen referenced dollar driven training the result of privatisation of training providers whereby courses were now structured to make a profit above training outcomes. We know that the few full time teachers amongst us will say that training outcomes are still the most important aspect of their job and this came out loud and clear from the trainers at this seminar but it is those in charge of the purse strings that set the rules and in their minds every course must make a profit, hence the proliferation of part time presenters paid by the hour presenting short courses designed for profit not outcomes. Newly graduated plumbing tradespersons are forced to take these courses to complete training that should have been provided during their apprenticeship. Training in Australia appears to be more about cost cutting and economics than preparing a workforce for a lifetime of work. Your Institute is currently taking a more proactive role in many aspects of the Plumbing Industry including Training. The Institute's views expressed at this seminar included:

- # A need for national consistency in all things plumbing.
- # A need to promote recognition by Governments and the Public of the importance of safe, sound plumbing.
- # Apprentices to be trained in the underlying principles of Plumbing.
- # Retention of the 4 year term of Apprenticeship.
- # Training to be continuous throughout the full 4 year term. (Use it or you will lose it!)
- # Broad spectrum training not specialised streams.
- # End of apprenticeship Capstone Examination(s) set by an independent panel of examiners.
- # Training outcomes not to be dollar driven.

>>>> Do you agree with the above or do you have other views?
Your comments please.

RESIDENTIAL APPRENTICESHIPS:

Well it has finally happened and housing builders in Western Australia have conned the government to allow shortened (2 Years) Apprenticeships in building trades such as bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, we are told that they have their sights on plumbing in 2006. Any push to shorten apprenticeships or reduce training times in residential plumbing is the wrong way round. The fact is that Plumbers in residential construction, renovations and maintenance require as much if not more training than those

in commercial construction due to their work including not only installation and repair of plumbing systems but also design, selection of fittings and materials and compliance with codes, all items provided by specialist engineers and consultants on larger projects.

>>>> Are the provision, protection and conservation of safe drinking water and safe sanitation any less important in the family home or unit than in your office or factory?

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

The end of the year is almost upon us, and what a year we have had. As my first year as National President I have been lucky enough to be involved with the inaugural Industry Associations forum "The Plumbing Coalition" hosted by the Institute in Sydney in September, and from this we hope to establish a greater understanding of the training provided to our apprentices. The introduction of E-INSTITUTE is a great way for members to keep abreast of new developments and to have your say. Please do not hesitate to use this facility.

I take this opportunity to wish everybody a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year, and look forward to a successful 2006.

Michael Jarrad

STANDARDS AND CODES:

The National Guidelines for Water Recycling - Managing Health and Environmental Risks, comprising a risk management framework and specific guidance on managing the health risks and the environmental risks associated with the use of recycled water, and a report National Guidelines for Water Recycling - Managing Health and Environmental Risks - Impact Assessment, which assesses the likely impacts of a move to a national risk management framework, can be downloaded at:

http://www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/water_recycling.html.

Public consultation will be complemented by a series of public meetings in the capital city of each state and territory to explain the guidelines and answer any questions that you may have. Further information on these meetings will be circulated shortly and posted at the web link above. The closing date for submissions is Friday 13 January 2006.

Further information on the guideline development process or how to make a submission can be obtained from me on (08) 8419 1209 or by return email.

These Guidelines have implications for the Plumbing Code of Australia and the Australian requirements in AS/NZS 3500.

The above information was provided by:

David Cox

National Codes Manager

Water Services Association of Australia

TECHNICAL BOOKS:

Did you know that the NSW Chapter of your institute runs a mail order bookshop supplying all manner of technical books and Australian Standards. Email Manager Ken Adams kadams@acenet.com.au for more information.

>>>> Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues may be sent to the Editor at:

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE INSTITUTE SECRETARIAT

